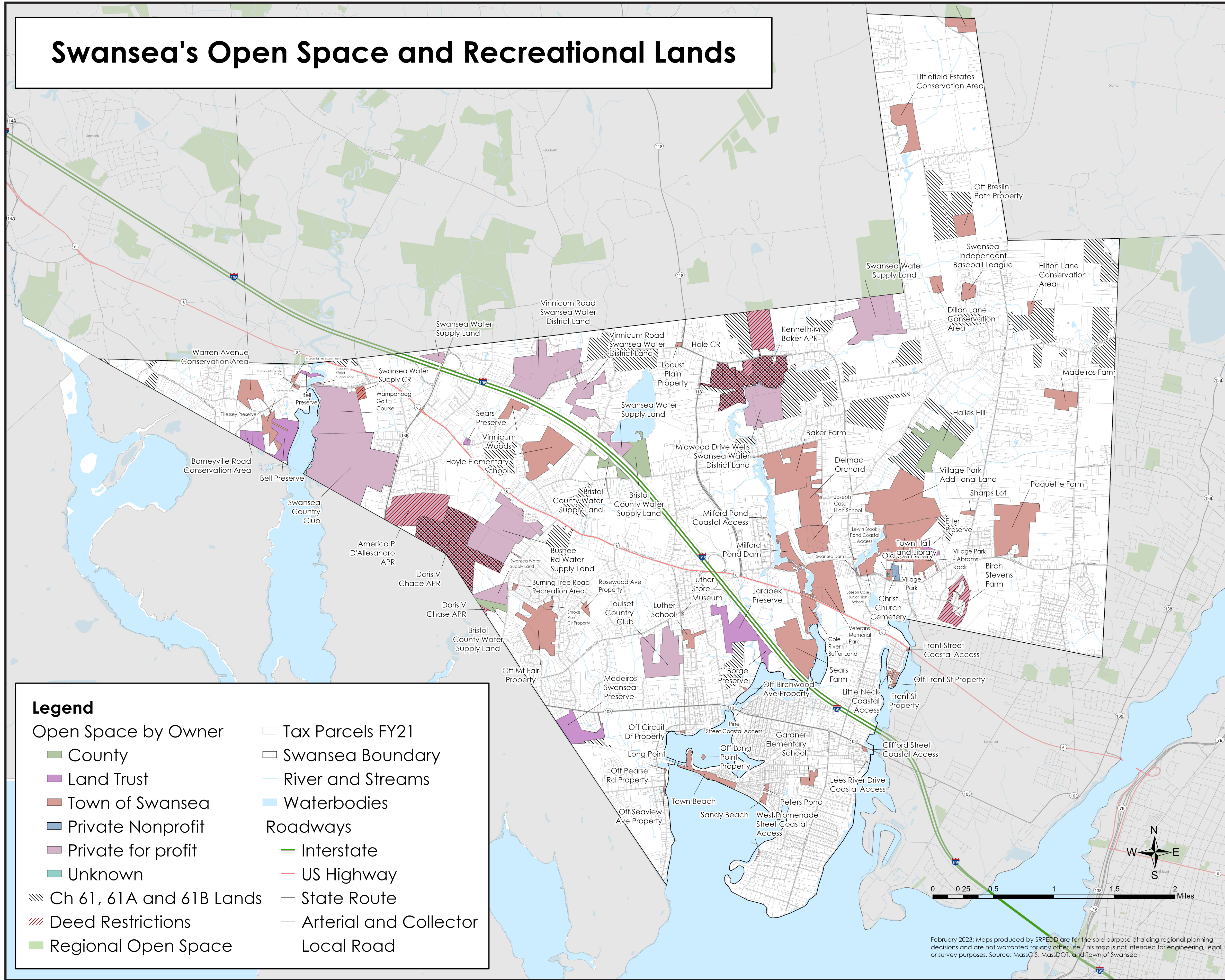
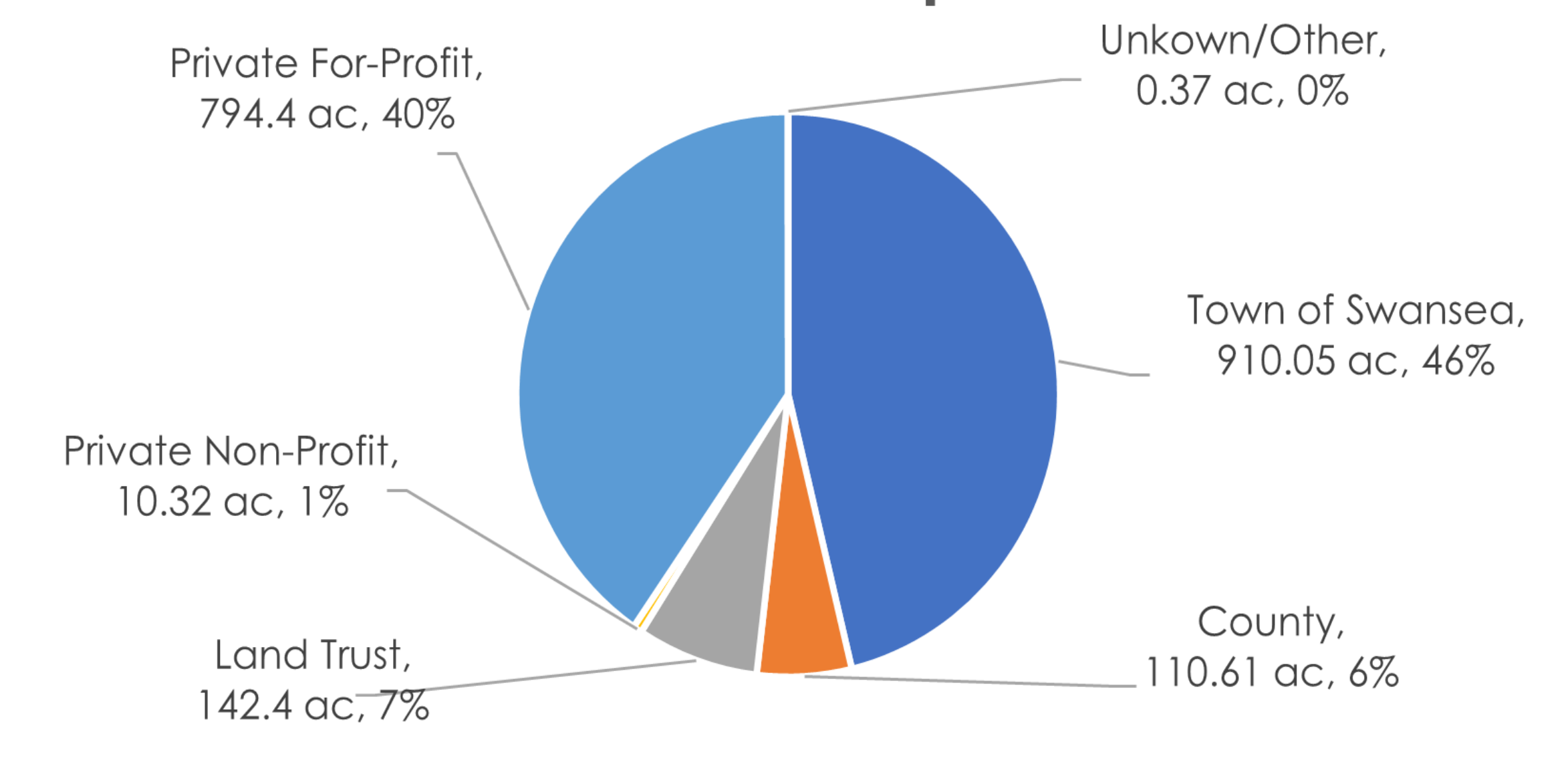


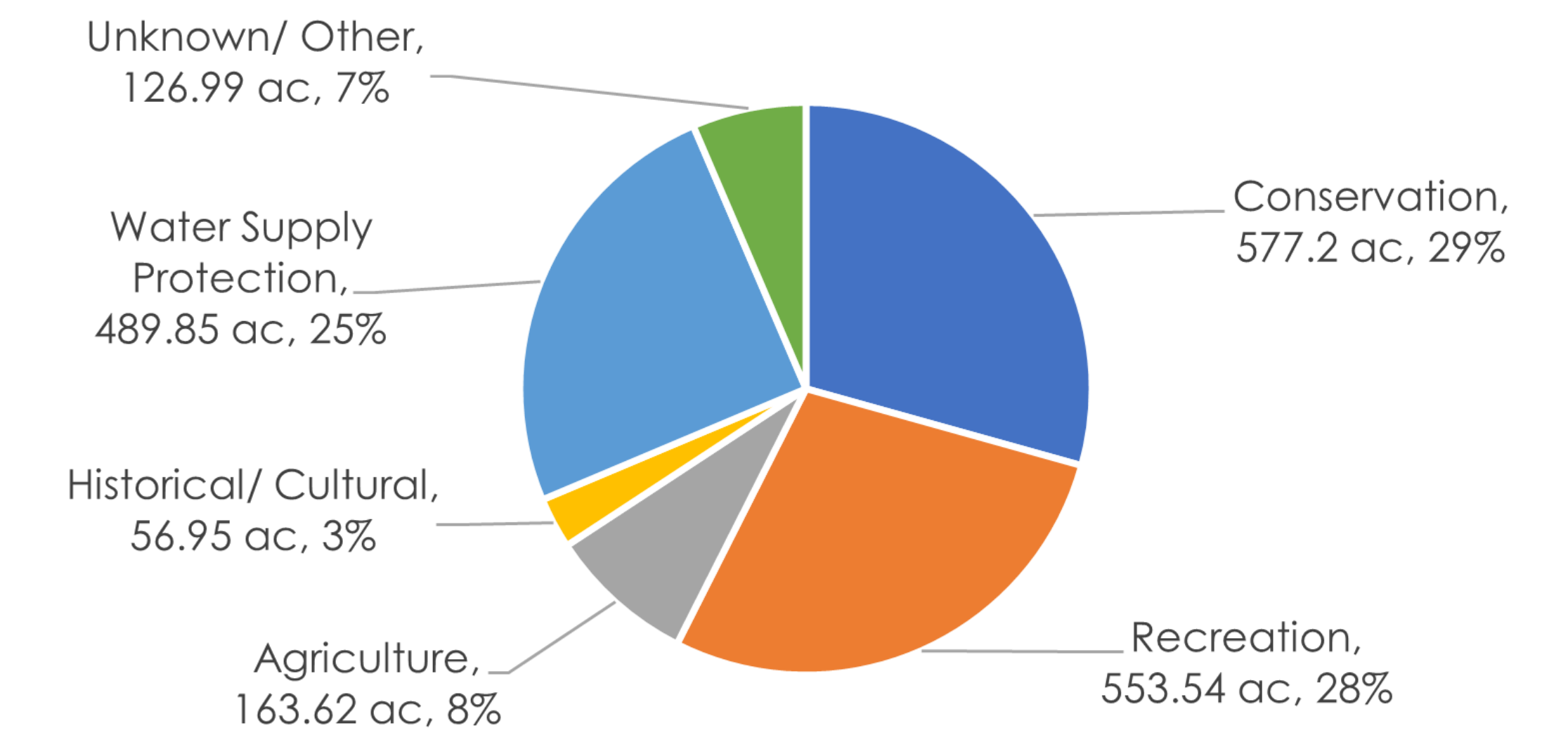
# Swansea's Open Space and Recreational Lands



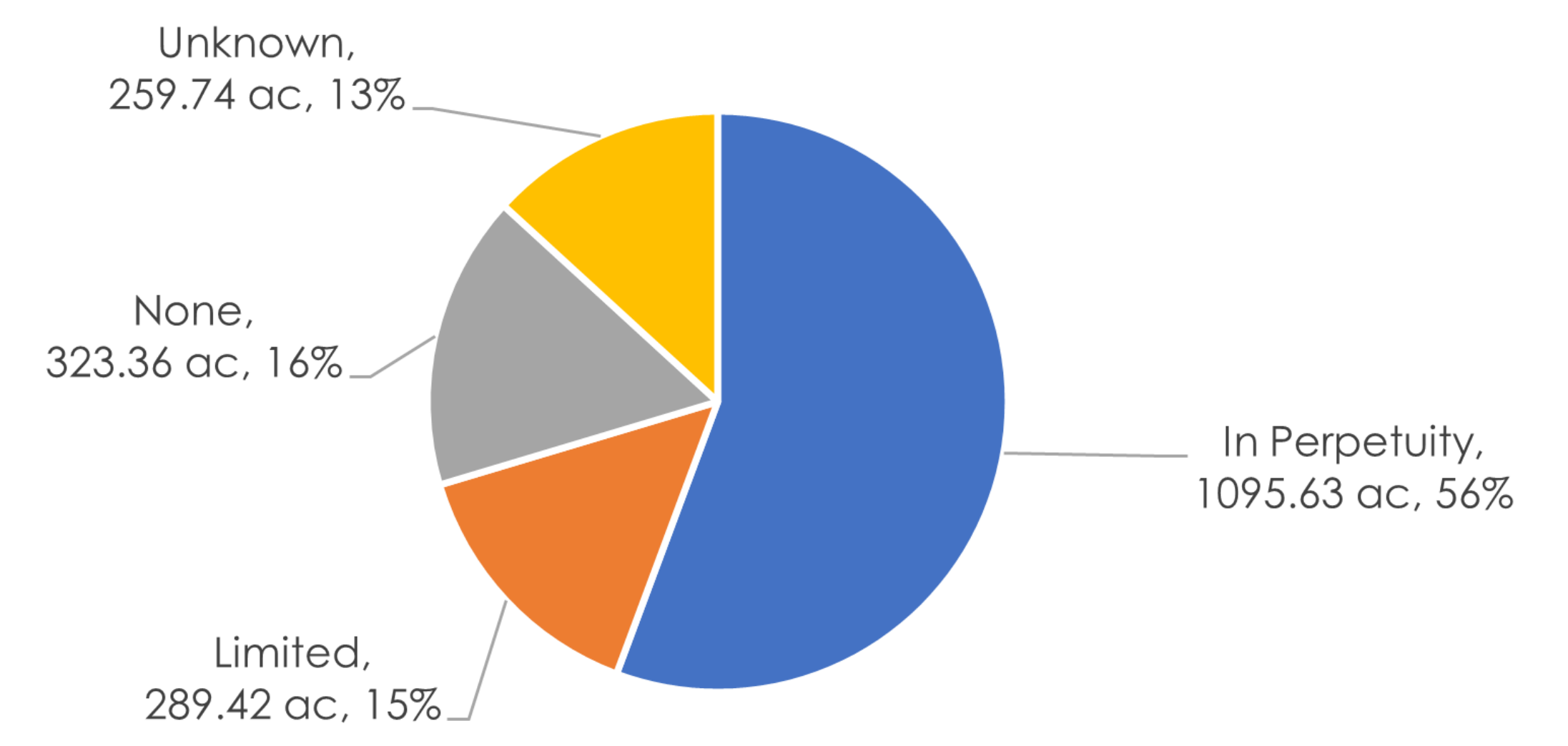
## Swansea Open Space by Ownership



## Swansea Open Space by Primary Purpose



## Swansea Open Space by Level of Protection



## What Are Open Spaces?

Open spaces can be thought of as any undeveloped land areas that have the potential to be, or already are, used for **conservation or recreation** purposes.

Open space may include:

- Watershed protection areas
- Recreational land
- Conservation land
- Agricultural land
- Other undeveloped, public or privately-held parcels

Swansea has **1,968 ac total** of open space. This is roughly **13%** of the town.

## Open Space Protections

Land protected **in perpetuity** is legally under permanent protection from development. The protections are recorded in the deed to the property so as ownership changes, those protections remain.

Examples:

- Land owned by a municipal conservation commission or by a state conservation agency for conservation purposes
- Property with a permanent **conservation restriction** or **agricultural preservation restriction**

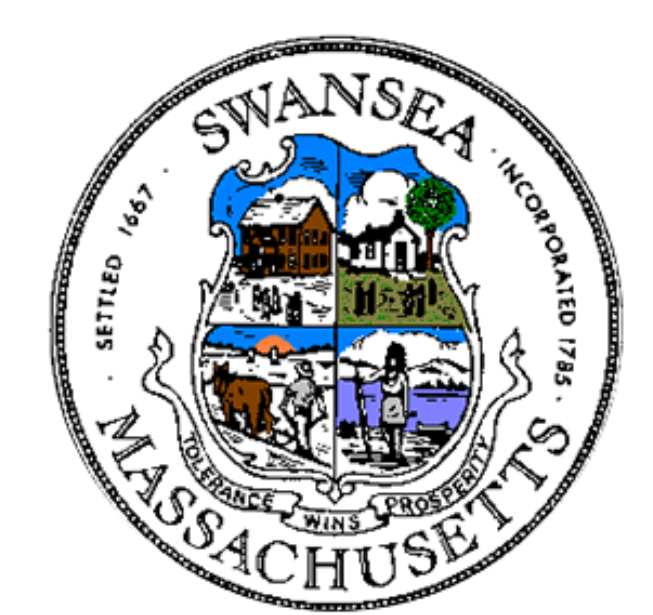
Land with **limited** protections do not have the same legal protections (or they may only be temporary), but are more likely to remain open space than unprotected lands due to the difficulty of changing their use.

Examples:

- Non-conservation public lands that require a municipal vote to change their use or purpose
- Lands enrolled in **Ch 61, 61A and 61B** tax benefit programs for keeping land in forest, agricultural or recreational use
- Lands that are otherwise likely to remain open space, such as cemeteries

## Want to stay in touch?

Follow the status of Swansea's Open Space & Recreation Plan at: [SRPEDD.org/swansea-osrp](http://SRPEDD.org/swansea-osrp) (or scan the QR code)



# SWANSEA OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>1. PROTECT THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY, WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS</b>			
1	Develop a Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan (CWRMP) that addresses drinking water supplies, water quality threats, and wastewater management		
2	Continue to coordinate on and support acquisition of additional land area around existing and proposed wellheads		
3	Revitalize River Aware public awareness campaign in conjunction with Save The Bay for Palmer, Lees, Cole's, and Kickamuit Rivers		
4	In coordination with state, utilize interns, staff and/or the town's GIS contractor to remain current with local wetland and vernal pool maps and data, or with other data needs as requested by the Conservation Commission		
5	Continue to certify potential vernal pools across town (work with Wildlands Trust and other local environmental organizations, volunteers and school groups to support field verification and application process).		
6	Secure funding to complete habitat and water quality assessment of Mount Hope Pond on the Cole's River (with Save the Bay)		
7	Identify and protect low-lying lands and marsh migration areas		
8	Preserve and/or restore forested buffers along waterways		
9	Explore programs that fund local tree planting and maintenance, in order to protect water resources (i.e. Tree City USA)		
<b>GOAL 2: PROTECT AND PRESERVE SWANSEA'S NATURAL, SCENIC, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>			
10	Consider conveyance of Bristol County Hailes Hill parcel to Town's open space network		
11	Review protection status of Town-owned open space parcels and consider transferring high priority parcels to the Conservation Commission for permanent protection		
12	Continue to consider options for potential future long-term protection of the Swansea Country Club		
13	Increase public education about conservation options for private property to ease responsibility on Conservation Commission to protect land		
14	Identify key open space corridors (including "Greenbelts" along the Palmer, Kickamuit, Cole's and Lees Rivers) and, as opportunities arise and resources allow, acquire parcels along these corridors to protect them from sale or development		
15	Work with local and regional environmental organizations to advance habitat restoration and enable future marsh migration along the Palmer River		
16	Conduct an inventory of important scenic and cultural landscapes		
17	Work with Historic Commission, DCS and other regional groups to plan and fund resource protection efforts		
18	Seek MA Cultural District Designation for Main Street / Milford Road.		
<b>GOAL 3: PROTECT SWANSEA'S AGRICULTURE AND SHELLFISHING INDUSTRIES</b>			
19	Form committee to coordinate with regional agricultural groups to assist local farmers and encourage new agricultural activities on prime soils		
20	Explore and/or encourage protection programs (i.e. APR, CR) on priority farmland		
21	Establish a shellfish restoration program for the Palmer, Cole's and Lees Rivers		

DISCLAIMER: These action items may be subject to revision prior to their inclusion in the finalized Open Space and Recreation Plan. Revisions may include, but are not limited to, the action item, responsible party, timeline for implementation, and funding source.

# SWANSEA OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 4: PROVIDE ADEQUATE STAFFING AND FACILITIES TO MEET THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF ALL TOWN RESIDENTS</b>			
22	Identify and implement strategies to increase funding and staffing for facility management, including the creation of a Recreation Director position		
23	Seek Town support for expanding resources allocated to town open space		
24	Increase local volunteer support to assist Wildlands Trust in managing lands and offering more public trails		
25	Recruit more community volunteers to get involved in town committees and boards		
26	Recruit volunteers to help maintain town open space properties (i.e. "adopt-a-spot" program, "friends of" program, sponsorships, boy scout projects)		
27	Identify funding to implement ADA transition plan, possibly in conjunction with other suggested improvements		
28	Provide picnic amenities in suitable locations		
29	Formalize and expand parking areas at town parks (especially at Sandy Beach to reduce congestion at boat ramp, Milford St Playground, athletic fields)		
30	Formalize the collection of parcels collectively known as Swansea Memorial Park and post signs to familiarize the public with this property		
31	Formalize and mark trail network at Village Park (separating hiking and biking trails to reduce user conflicts) and develop trail maps		
32	Install bike racks at town open spaces to improve accessibility by bike		
33	Establish public database of public open spaces and allowed uses at each		
34	Identify parcels of recreation potential, especially in under-served areas (including Ocean Grove, Smokerise Circle, Rosewood), for playgrounds and neighborhood parks		
35	Analyze & expand existing and establish new programs for elderly		
36	Explore options for an indoor recreational facility		
37	Assess recreational use potential at town parcels on Little Neck		
38	Organize more community events, such as outdoor concerts, movie nights, festivals		
39	Offer more recurring organized activities, such as fitness and craft classes and youth group activities		
40	Establish one or more dog parks		
41	Establish one or more skate parks (consider Medeiros Farm as potential location)		
42	Establish a discus golf course (consider Medeiros Farm as a potential location)		
43	Consider the establishment and completion of a cohesive green belt in the area between Stevens Rd and Marvel St from Sharps Lot to Bark St; Town Farm, YMCA, Medeiros Farm, and open space land attached to OSRD's, which could be connected with trails		
44	Explore potential for formalizing use of power lines for hiking and bike trails		
45	Establish a trail network on the newly acquired Baker Farm and Delmac properties behind Case High School		
46	Formalize bike lanes along Warren Ave. and Route 103, exploring potential connections to the East Bay Bike Path		
47	Assess potential uses of and public access to Sears Farm town property		
48	Continue to assess public access to coastal and river resources and prepare plans for improving access		
49	Develop a roadside signage system of waterways to identify their names and characteristics to improve public awareness of water resources		
50	Assess town-wide canoe and boat access; improve access and parking areas		
51	Install new ADA accessible kayak launches (consider the following potential locations: Lewin Brook next to Joseph Case Junior High School; Lees River at Veterans Memorial Park; Cole River right-of-way south of Route 103)		
52	Place and monitor signage identifying public rights-of-way and distinguishing public vs private coastal access areas		
53	Identify town department / staff to oversee coastal access issues, enforce access rights and maintain signage and rights-of-way		

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# SWANSEA OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 5: CARRY OUT THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</b>			
54	Continue the Open Space Committee and formalize its responsibilities as a standing implementation committee (i.e. working with other town and regional staff and organizations on grant writing, planning)		
55	Circulate and publicize Action Plan to the community, encouraging public to take ownership and get involved in implementation		
56	Support the completion of the town Comprehensive Master Plan, ensuring open space priorities are incorporated		
57	Prepare a comprehensive resource protection zoning overlay district and bylaw (include water resources, scenic corridors/viewsheds, river corridors, etc.)		
58	Adopt a preservation bylaw for delaying demolition of historic properties		
59	Adopt road and sidewalk standards across departments to coordinate improvements and funding sources for implementation		
60	Assess the effectiveness of existing regulations to protect water resources and identify any necessary improvements		
61	Review and improve, as needed, Conservation Subdivision Bylaw to aid in the protection of high quality natural areas		
62	Continue to implement Town's Stormwater Management Plan, in compliance with MS4 permit		
63	Identify opportunities within the town's existing regulatory framework to incorporate tree protections and encourage tree planting in new development		

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